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2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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MAJORITY (202) 225-5051

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March 22, 2007

# D.C. Voting Rights: Myth vs. Fact

## *Get Beyond the FICTION. Do the Right Thing.*

Dear Colleague,

Leading up to the vote on H.R 1433, the D.C. House Voting Rights Bill, I want to ask you to carefully consider the facts surrounding D.C., Congress and how they relate to each other. I hope you'll find, as I have, that Congress has the power and the responsibility to right this historic wrong.

Tom Davis

*Myth:*

Retrocession to Maryland is better. Virginia took back its cession of land in 1849.

*Fact:*

Maryland begs to differ. While a state can be created from another state, a state can not be compelled to accept territory against its will. Not only did Virginia seek retrocession, and not only was there a referendum, but its purpose was to preserve slavery in the affected areas.

*Myth:*

Statehood is better.

*Fact:*

Statehood is the deadest mackerel in town. It could not pass; in fact it failed. It is in a different category entirely, and is basically just a dodge for not passing this bill, which is the only measure that has ever been proposed that could result in District residents being able to elect a voting member in congress.

*Myth:*

This bill has no bearing on anything else going on in the world, and no one really cares.

*Fact:*

While we are fighting for democracy abroad, it looks terrible for us to deny the residents of our nation's capital a full voting representative in Congress. This has been commented on many times by distinguished officials in allied countries. And every opinion poll ever taken has reported huge majorities in our own country supporting this fundamental right.